

TWIGS

The Garden Club of Greater Lansing



Member of: Michigan Garden Clubs Inc. District 2B, National Garden Club Central Region, National Garden Club Inc.

President's Message

I have witnessed an outpouring of busy hands and open hearts. Many members of the garden club worked all kinds of hours and time to prepare for a one-day event, our Greens Market (GM). It started this summer when we held a few workshops where people came together to learn how to make pics—wrapping together ornaments that are used in our tree arrangements. We repeated the workshop in the fall. Poor **Sherry** was still in another time zone (just returning from an extraordinary out of the country trip) but made it over to help and direct swags. People learned how to make bows, swag frames and tie together pinecones. **Jean** has help in the bow making department. Sherry has help in the

swag making department and many people learned how to make the supporting elements of pics and pinecones. Off to a great start. Little did I know that this start would run at full throttle once we started meeting. Thanks **Sherry, Joanne, Ronalee, Rick, Renee, Jean.**

Next, we needed a plan on what was to be ordered. Where were we getting our products? How much we would need to order based upon previous year and of course guessing. Checking on local options for purchase too. We confirmed our wreath order from Estes Leadley and made our purchases at Cottage Garden for roping. The website needed to be updated for our online orders.

Was our technology working? Did we have everything entered properly so people could order online? Getting the email list together to contact 200+ people and notify them of our GM. Again, these small things are huge pieces in the dynamics of this event. What supporting supplies we might need and what was in storage. So much goes on behind the scenes. Thanks **Ronalee, Joanne, Rick, Ellen, Renee, Jean.**



Orders were placed and then it is a waiting game. In Nov we held a workshop to help all members see how we hand build products and put together greens for great outcomes. For many, this is a refresher but we had many new members this year. People asked questions, reviewed how the greens were made and overall felt more comfortable and confident going into the GM the following week.

We got some disappointing news. The delivery of greens was not an option this year. Thinking hats went on and Ronalee and John busted down to Livonia to pick up our greens. That helped keep the costs down on what could have been a few hundred dollars extra in costs.

What we would have needed had those two not did this with their vehicles was rent a Uhaul and still needed a driver. Much bigger costs than the previous year delivery charge of \$49.00. Thank you, **Ronalee and John**.

Next came set-up—retrieving supplies from the storage unit and away we were flying. The teams that came together to help with setup both Sundays was swift moving and very helpful. Slow motion was not in the vocabulary. Thank you **Sue and Richard, Jean and Don, Ronalee, Joanne, Linda Sue, Ann S., Sherry, Carol, Rick, Marge** (cut oasis).

Monday arrived and the tables filled up fast. Tools in hand, swag shapes made and members breezed through the swags like reindeer flying thru the air. I think Santa was driving the team. So many helpful hands, cheery faces and anticipation of what was next. The speed along with accuracy was remarkable.



Wreaths were completed as quickly as swags. Some of our older members told me they were stunned at how fast everything was moving. So many people coming in to help, extended hours at night for one evening and product was being produced. We finished a day early with so much help. The teams of people who came into the daily workshops were very adept at making everything so far. This was fantastic. I just knew that better things were coming. Thank goodness for our new members. Their numbers put in an astounding amount of time and energy. I was amazed at the level of output from our new members. It was exciting to walk into the room and find some of the same people present day after day. Many of our previous members spent lots of time

putting together our greens and filling in where needed because they had previous experience. What was noticeable was the level of enthusiasm and fun everyone was having from day 1 to day 8. I think this team of people charged the energizer bunny.





We had members brave the elements and cut boxwood over the Thanksgiving weekend. Members go out to cut and wash boxwood. Arrangements are made in the summer and confirmed in the fall with MSU. Cutting takes place on the north campus grounds. Thanks **Ronalee** and **team**.

The second week arrived and we still had as many busy hands as the first week. People were excited to put together the boxwood trees and then on to the creative small arrangements and centerpieces. That is my favorite time. All of these creative hands break out in an explosions of beauty. It is very uplifting and truly reflects the spirit of Christmas. Again, we had many people show each day for many hours. It was inspirational.

The end of the week arrived and all the last-minute things need to be done by noon on Friday. The group is decorating swags and wreaths with bows and pinecones and if a special order is needed it is taken care of too. By noon everyone was putting things away. Transforming the design room into a sales area is hard work. Again, a super group of people persevered and took every round table down and put up the long tables, dressed them and cleaned everything up. This is exhausting. And more so after already helping all week. Thank you, **Ronalee, Renee, Sherry, Joanne, Deb, Sue, Mary H, Kirstan, Rick, John**.

Saturday arrived cold and windy. The rawness of the wind and the coldness in the air is hard on people getting out and about. It is also a challenge for our outdoor sales team. Everyone was prepared. People jumped into getting everything finalized. Lots of scuttling around to make beautiful an already gorgeous space filled with greens. **WOW!** Members took on every roll that was needed. We had everything covered. From people behind the tables assisting to runners. Greeters and assistance at checkout. We even had our own personal advertising live show. And yes, people stopped or came over from across the street. This sales tactic along with our sales team outside selling bags and roping had their work cut out for them. Thank you, **Ellen, Ann S., Beth H.**

A few more shout outs. We had **Melinda** come and take our picture so none of us were missing. **Rick** brought in lighting and setup a back drop to take pictures of our work. **Deb** and **Rick** worked to make our publicity shine. We were on Facebook with lots of shares and comments. We were in the printed

part of the Lansing Pulse advertising for Christmas events. We were on channel 4 (local) NBC at the 5:00 pm news a few days before the sales.

I think about when I started with the garden club and I don't recall a time quite like this. It was truly amazing (I should not be surprised) to see how many people created this event. Each person should take a moment and realize what part they played in the success of our sale. I have now started to reframe in my mind that this is an event. Something that takes time, commitment, work, patience and a team. Sometimes we get caught up in the moment of it needing to be perfect, or we can't change. What we need to get caught up in is how **YOU** worked together, how **YOU** made a commitment, how **YOU** created a piece of beauty sitting



on someone's table, how **YOU** poured energy and fun into 8+ days of green madness. **Thank you.** To everyone who helped in any capacity it was needed and welcomed. To those who could not be present for whatever reason we missed you.

Christmas Tea



It was indeed a pleasant surprise to have **Jenny** join us. Jenny is usually very active in the GM but due to a fall was recuperating. Jenny, you look great. Thank you **Sue K.**

Mary's home was dressed to the **NINES** and more. Tables set, decorations out, home cleaned and prepped for an afternoon of enjoying company, food and conversation. It was a wonderful afternoon. Mary was hoping the sun would come out and brighten up everything. The clouds broke open and by the time people left the weather had warmed up and I was in need of sunglasses. We had so many delightful foods to try. Everything was tasty and company spectacular. Thank you, Mary.

January Club Member Meeting

It is a good day to have a salad and warm casserole during the winter months. The team will be getting desserts and morning goodies together. Everyone else brings a salad or casserole. Information is in your book on page 40. This is one of our more popular lunches. Information/reports will be shared on GM. **Joan** will convene a committee when she returns.

Ann S. will chair this meeting. Please send information/reports to **Ann, Ronalee** and **Joan** for the agenda. The program information will be managed by Ronalee. She will show people the following websites and information you ALL have access to. National Garden Club, Michigan Garden Club, District 2B, and of course our

website. Each website produces different information that has a direct effect upon our existence. I have also asked **Rick** to share his photography of the GM. This catalogue of pictures will take us through our early days in the summer to our finished greens and displays. It will help us account for our work and can be used in further endeavors of publicity and marketing. It is hoped that all accounting will be complete so a final report can be given on GM.

Ann will be working hard to get a team together for the upcoming flower show. It will be sometime in the summer of 2026. She will need a full year plus to get everything done. You just demonstrated with the GM how capable you are of an event. I look forward to working with Ann and the rest of the group to make this event **SPECTACULAR.**

Ann, Ronalee and **Joan** will also be looking into people who are interested in running for the board. Joan would like a full slate by March 1st. We can vote and know who will be leading us with a supporting team. It is also not too late to think about what committee(s) you want to work on in the future. Joan is looking for people to assist with our meals for the remainder of the year. We need a few more people at each meeting.

The program planning committee will also be gearing up for the upcoming year. Please think about who you might want to speak, topics, ideas etc. That meeting will convene in February but the process starts in January. As all good gardeners know we use the winter for planning, generating ideas and dreaming of fabulous gardens.

So let your imagination soar and think of subjects/topics, field trips and activities.

Horticulture

My mailbox goes from holiday catalogs to garden catalogs with no break. My poor mail carrier must be tired of delivering the never-ending volume of catalogs this time of year. Sometimes they overlap because, of course, garden supplies can make good holiday gifts. Some companies don't just tempt us once, but they seem to think we'll order more if they send a catalog a week for at least two months. Unfortunately, they may be right. After I've been tempted just so long, it seems logical to give in – doesn't it?? When my common-sense returns, there are some "rules of the road" or "rules for shopping" that might be helpful.

First, look at your notes and pictures from last year's gardens. What did you like? What needs to be changed? What's good; what's not so good? Try to define areas that need improvement. Think about things like the size of the plants, their height, colors of blooms, what do the leaves look like when the plant is not blooming? How long will the plant bloom, or does it have a short bloom cycle and is it a foliage plant most of the summer? Can you remedy any problems by moving plants that you already have? What do you need, or will you just be repeating mistakes?

Second, where would you place a new plant? Would you be



repeating a mistake of the past for that same location, or can you decide what would be a good addition? Let's start with the tiresome phrase of "right plant, right place." How do you define the location? Will the plant be in the sun most of each day, or in the shade? Does that area tend to hold moisture, or is it usually dry? Will there be enough space for the plant to grow?

Now that I've taken some fun out of your catalog shopping, let's turn the questions around. When you see a plant that you

just must buy, that's ok too. Just reverse your questions—what does that plant need to grow successfully. Then think through

your gardens to find a location that answers all of those needs. Of course, the catalog gives you the ideal growing conditions. Remember that all plants need space to grow (check the mature plant's dimensions). Does it thrive in sun or shade? Can you control the amount of moisture with mulch or a garden hose? Are the flowers large or small and insignificant? How long do the blooms last? Will the plant need to be staked to hold it up? Will it become invasive? Consider other plants that you already have with similar growth requirements. Perhaps you can group them with your new plant as you plan their care.

Most of all, catalogs bring the first signs that spring is just a few short months away. Enjoy and dream large while you decide which new finds will have a home in your garden when it comes.

—Barb Amundsen

January Celebrations

Gala Kolmslee

Moiyra Heidel

Ann Lipkowitz

January Board Meeting

9:30 at the church. Ann S., will be the chair for this meeting. While I am out for a while you can still send information to me. Ann will be conducting the meeting. Agenda items should be sent to **Ann S., Ronalee and Joan.**